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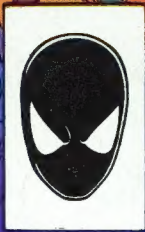


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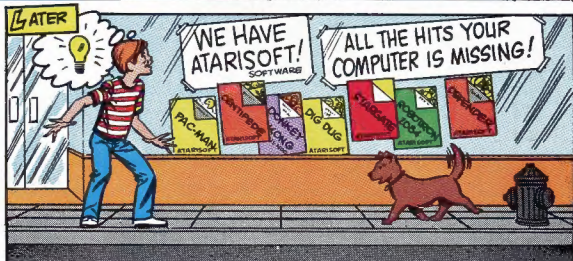
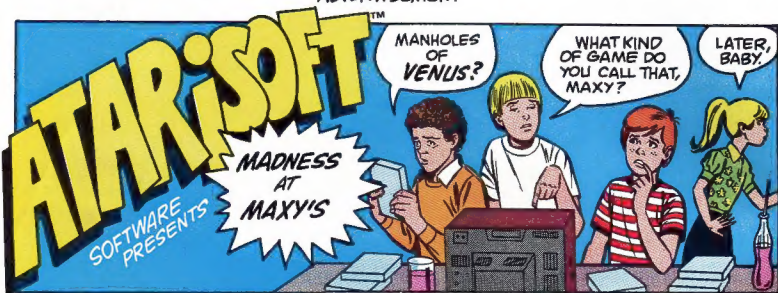
57
AUG

ROM

SPACEKNIGHT



WAVE OF DEATH!



THE NEXT DAY.



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STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE GREATEST OF THE SPACEKNIGHTS--ROM!

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IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS,
THE ABOVE CAPTION MAY HAVE
TO BE CHANGED TO READ: "THIS
WAS THE TOWN OF BEAVER
FALLS."

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Perhaps a brief history lesson is in order: One hundred years ago, there was no such town as Beaver Falls, Ontario. There was merely a winding blue river passing down between pine-studded hills. Then a mining company found a rich seam of coal in those hills, and began excavating the ebony ore from deep inside the earth. Miners dwelt in the company town that arose by the name of Beaver Falls. As the mine profited, the town grew. But coal is a dirty mineral. The process of mining it blackened the air, the blue waters, and the miners' lungs. Coal slurry, the waste product from the scrubbing of coal, poured into the river and eventually blocked it up, forming, in effect, a man-made lake. Beaver Lake. Eventually, the mines played out. The company, especially in the face of mounting attacks claiming that it had excessively exploited the environment, left. The town remained. It stagnated below the dam built behind the backed-up slurry, its chief export unemployment, its major import public assistance checks. The valley's air was black with the smoke from perpetually smoldering slag heaps. The lake waters were black and lifeless — until the coming of the DIRE WRAITHS . . .

SCENES OF DESTRUCTION ON EVERY HAND!



GOOD GOD
IN HEAVEN...!

I FEAR
PRAYER CANNOT
SAVE US NOW,
SAGWATH!

WHAT CAN,
SHAWAN? YOUR
MAGIC...?

THE WRAITHS
HAVE PLAYED US
MOST FOUL! THEY
SET THEIR
MONSTRIOUS
MUTATES TO
DIVERT OUR
ATTENTION...

WHILE THEIR
TRUE INTENT WAS
TO UNLEASH THE
SORCEROUSLY-TAINTED
WATERS OF BEAVER
LAKE ACROSS THE
COUNTRYSIDE!

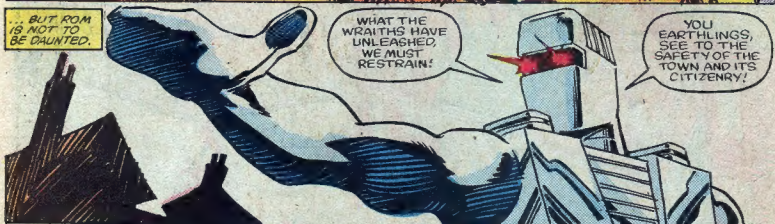
AND, IN THE FACE OF SUCH A FEARSOME
FLOOD, CAN THE SPACENIGHTS BOB AND
STARSHINE AND THE SUPER-HEROES OF
ALL THE FLIGHT FEEL ANYTHING BUT...
HELPLESS?



WHAT CAN WE DO? NOTHING!

THE LAKE IS A MERE TEN MILES FROM THE TOWN! THE FLOOD WILL BE HERE IN MINUTES!

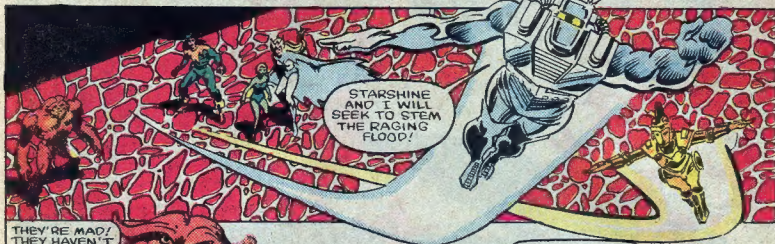
THE MAGNITUDE OF THE IMPENDING ODOM BEARING DOWN UPON THEM IS SUCH AS TO SEND EVEN THE STAINCHEST SOUL INTO A STATE OF SHOCK...



... BUT ROM IS NOT TO BE DAUNTED.

WHAT THE WRAITHS HAVE UNLEASHED, WE MUST RESTRAIN!

YOU EARTHLINGS, SEE TO THE SAFETY OF THE TOWN AND ITS CITIZENRY!



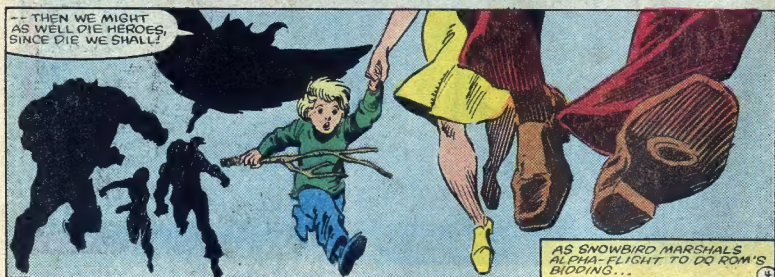
STARSHINE AND I WILL SEEK TO STEM THE RAGING FLOOD!

THEY'RE MAD! THEY HAVEN'T A CHANCE!

PEHPAPS NOT, SASQUATCH!

IF THAT IS SO, MARRINA--

BUT THEN NEITHER HAVE WE, SHAMAN.

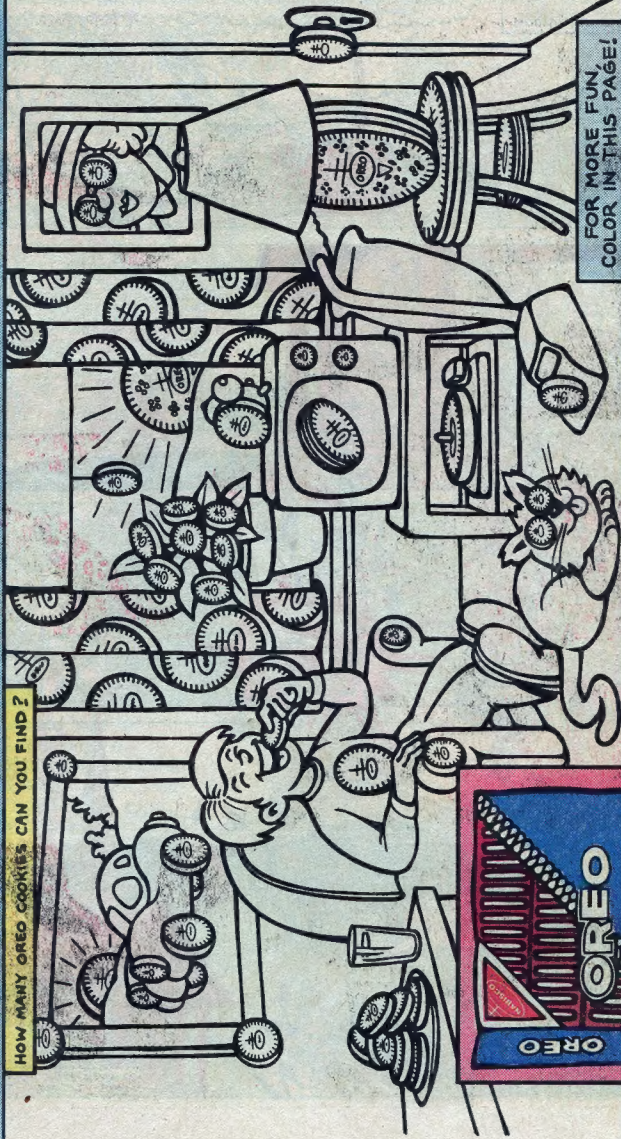


-- THEN WE MIGHT AS WELL DIE HEROES, SINCE DIE WE SHALL!

AS SNOWBIRD MARSHALS ALPHA-FLIGHT TO DQ ROM'S BIDDING...

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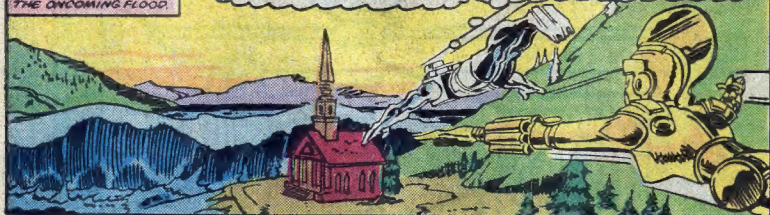
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... THE SOARING
SPACEKNIGHTS REACH
THE FIRST WAVE OF
THE ONCOMING FLOOD.

I SPOKE AS I DID TO ROUSE THE
HUMANS FROM THEIR SHOCK, BUT
TO WHAT PURPOSE?

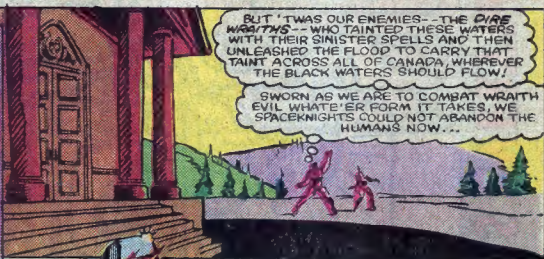
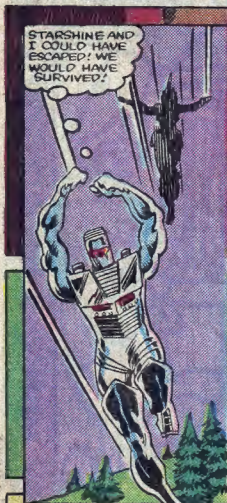
SURELY THE FLOOD IS UNSTOPPABLE!
SURELY ALL IN ITS PATH ARE DOOMED!



STARSHINE AND
I COULD HAVE
ESCAPED! WE
WOULD HAVE
SURVIVED!

BUT 'T WAS OUR ENEMIES--THE **DIE
WRAITHS**--WHO TAINTED THESE WATERS
WITH THEIR SINISTER SPELLS AND THEN
UNLEASHED THE FLOOD TO CARRY THAT
TAINT ACROSS ALL OF CANADA, WHEREVER
THE BLACK WATERS SHOULD FLOW!

SWORN AS WE ARE TO COMBAT WRAITH
EVIL WHATE'ER FORM IT TAKES, WE
SPACEKNIGHTS COULD NOT ABANDON THE
HUMANS NOW...



NO MATTER HOW
HOPELESS THEIR FLIGHT,
HOW CERTAIN THEIR
DOOM!

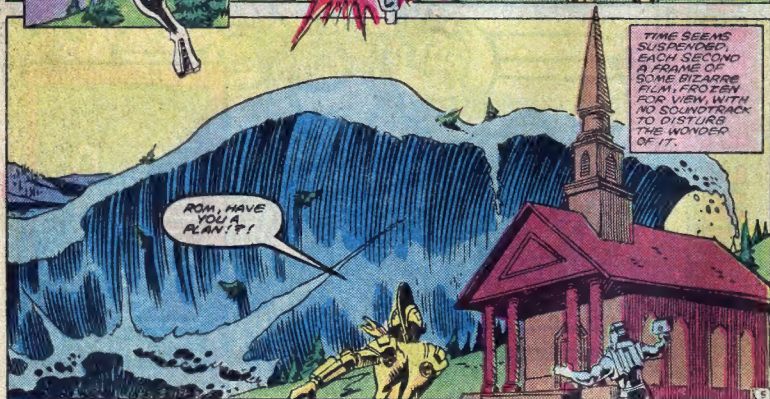
ROM, THE
FLOOD IS
ALMOST UPON
US!

HAVE YOU
SOME PLAN
TO STOP
IT?



TIME SEEMS
SUSPENDED,
EACH SECOND
A FRAME OF
SOME BIZARRE
FILM, FROZEN
FOR VIEW, WITH
NO SOUNDTRACK
TO DISTURB
THE WONDER
OF IT.

ROM, HAVE
YOU A
PLAN?!



HEY, KIDS! LOOK WHAT'S
COMING YOUR WAY!

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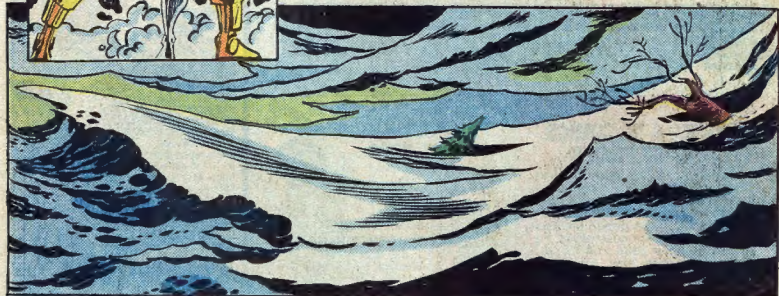
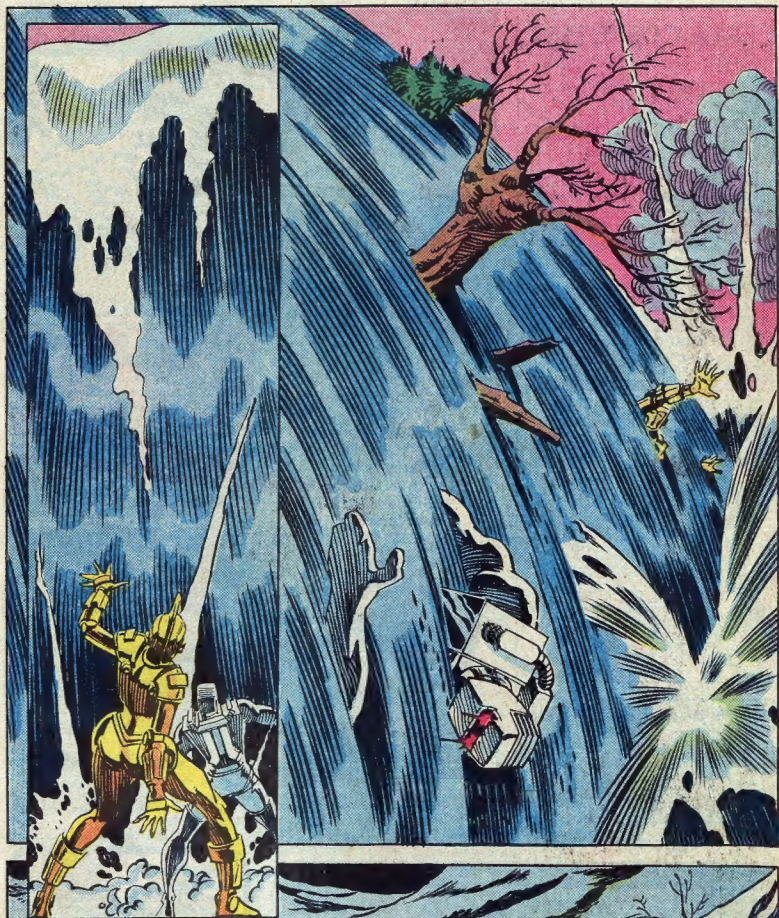
THEN A ROAR LIKE THE
RENDING OF THE EARTH
SHATTERS THE STILLNESS
AND SETS TIME RUNNING
AGAIN.

SHREK!

THE CHURCH HAD STOOD
FOR HALF A CENTURY. IT
FALLS IN LESS THAN
AN INSTANT.

NOW, STARSHINE! UNLEASH
YOUR POWER!

YOUR
POWER!



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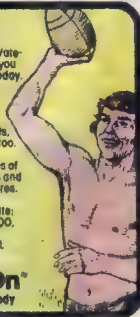
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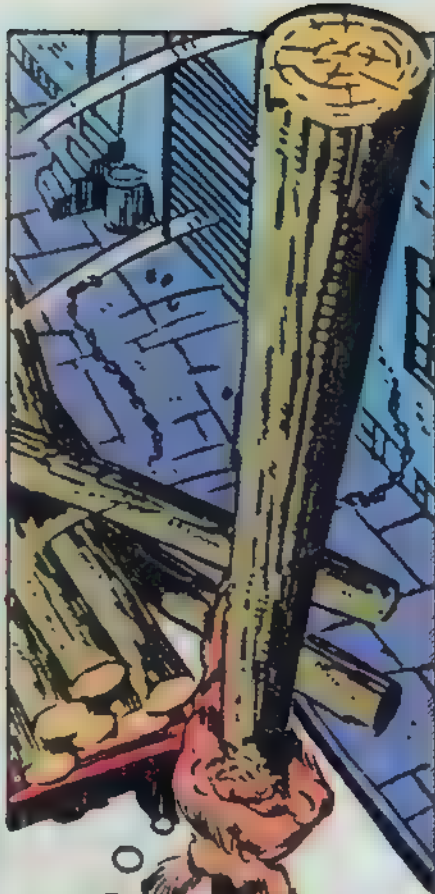
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MOMENTS EARLIER, IN THE TOWN OF BEAVER FALLS ...

SASQUATCH, THOSE LOGS--!

I SEE 'EM, SNOW-BIRD!



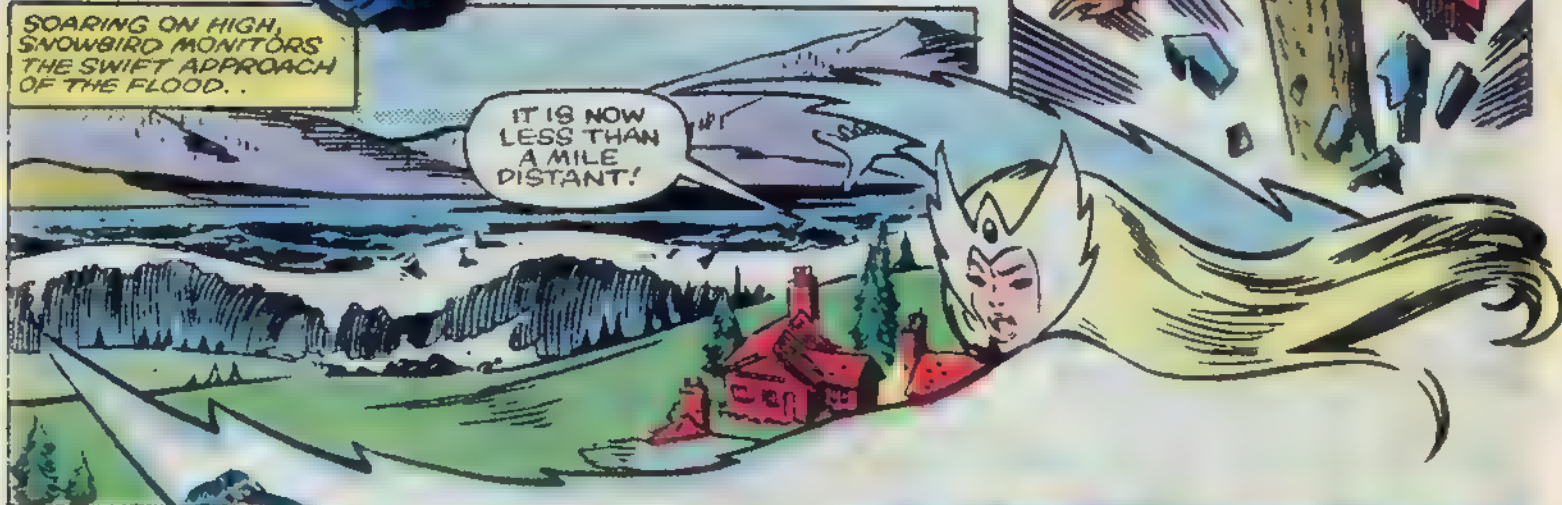
"SEE TO THE TOWN'S SAFETY!" THE SPACEKNIGHT SAID!

I'LL TRY, BUT IT'S GOING TO BE LIKE SPITTING INTO A STRONG WIND!

THROOM!

SOARING ON HIGH, SNOWBIRD MONITORS THE SWIFT APPROACH OF THE FLOOD. .

IT IS NOW LESS THAN A MILE DISTANT!



I MUST BE READY FOR IT.

WHAT CAN YOU DO, SHAMAN? BLESS MY BARRICADE?



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GREAT SPIRIT,
GUIDE ME!

THE BALANCE
OF NATURE WAS
UNSETTLED BY ALIEN
HANDS! HELP ME UNDO
THEIR EVIL!

EVEN AS HE PRAYS,
SHAMAN KNOWS HIS
PRAYERS ARE
DISHONEST.

WHILE THE WRAITHS
DID, INDEED, UNLEASH
THE FLOOD...

... THE BLACK WATERS
CARRYING THEIR SPELLS
WERE POLLUTED BY MAN.

THUS, THERE WERE TWO PARTIES
TO THIS CRIME AGAINST NATURE. BUT,
UNLESS THE FLOOD IS STOPPED...

... ONLY MAN WILL
PAY THE PRICE.

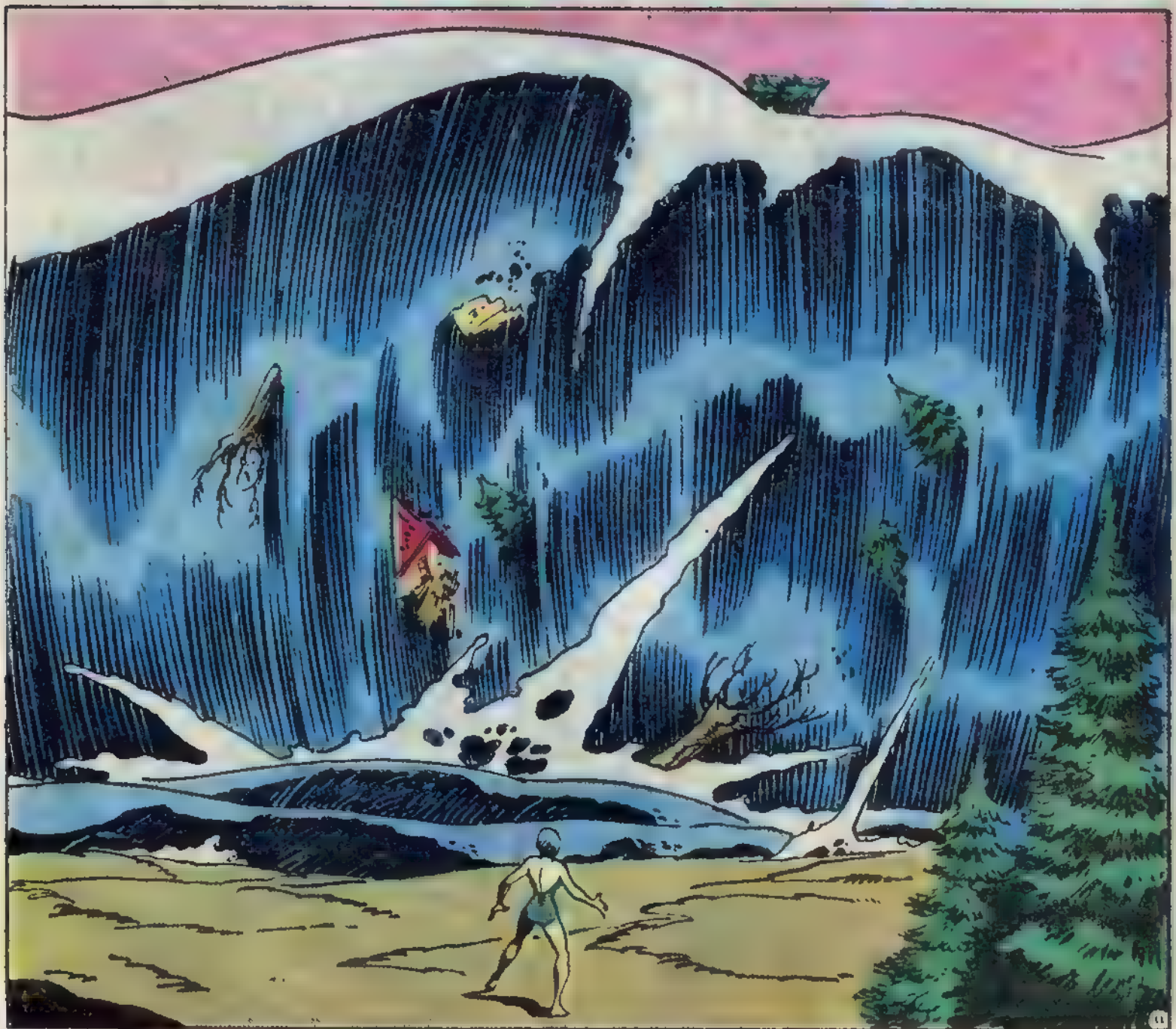
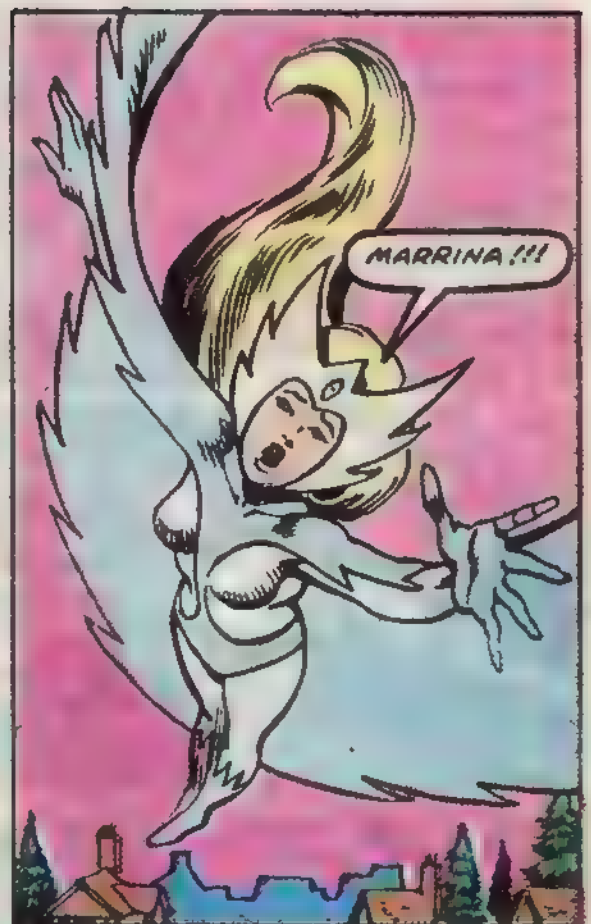
FROM HIS
MEDICINE
POUCH,
SHAMAN
EXTRACTS
CERTAIN
SEEDS.

SEEDS
SUSCEPTIBLE
TO ANCIENT
INCANTATIONS.

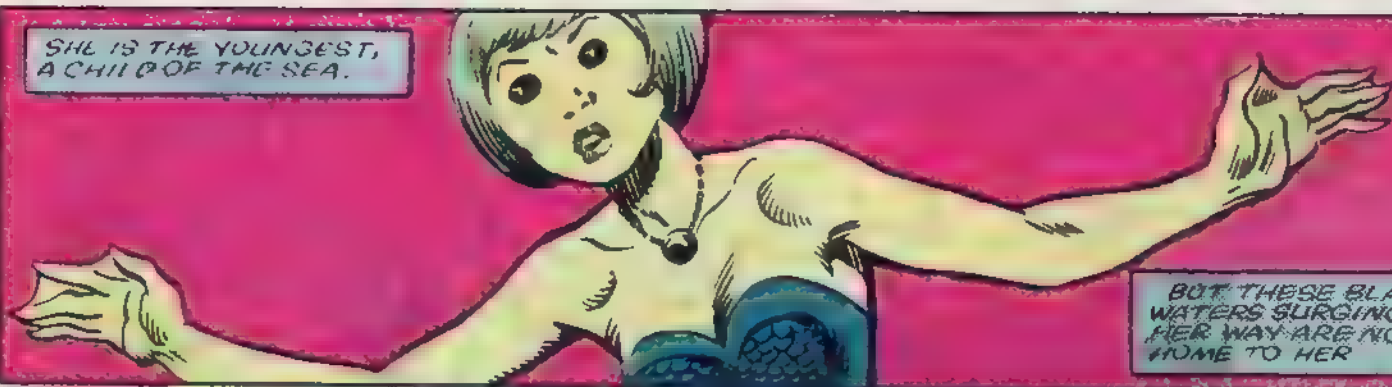
SEEDS WHICH
SWIFTLY
SPROUT...

... AND GROW TO FORM A
TIGHT-KNIT HEDGE OF
IMMENSE PROPORTIONS
BETWEEN THE BLACK
WATERS AND THE TOWN
IN THEIR PATH.

FRUMP!

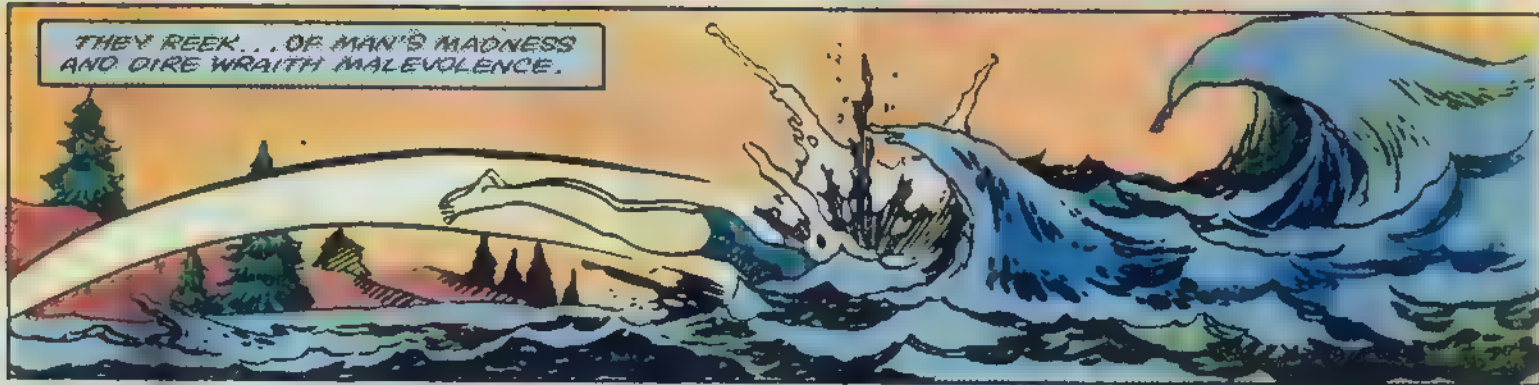


SHE IS THE YOUNGEST,
A CHILD OF THE SEA.

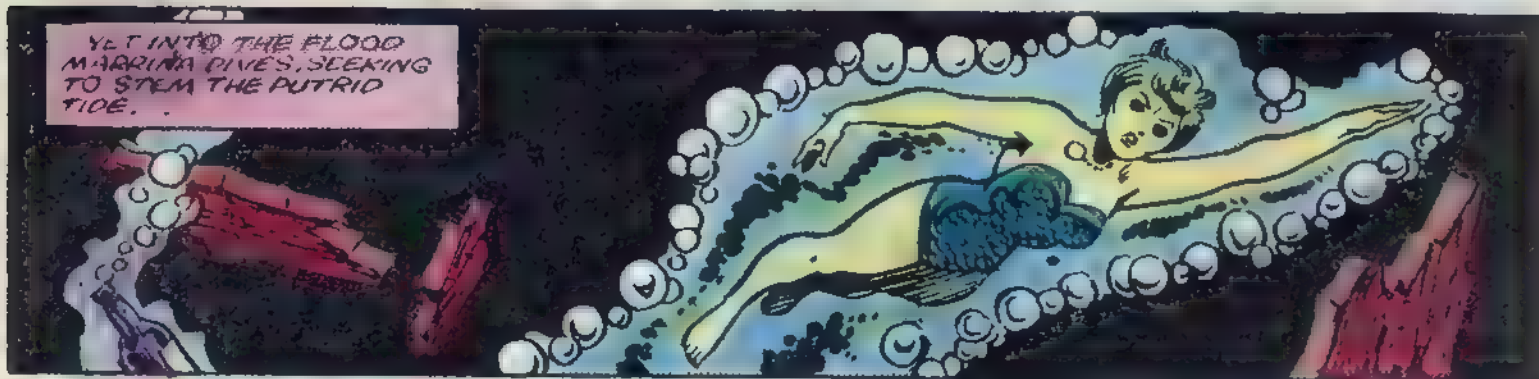


BUT THESE BLACK
WATERS SURGING
HER WAY ARE NO
HOME TO HER

THEY REEK... OF MAN'S MADNESS
AND DIRE WRAITH MALEVOLENCE.



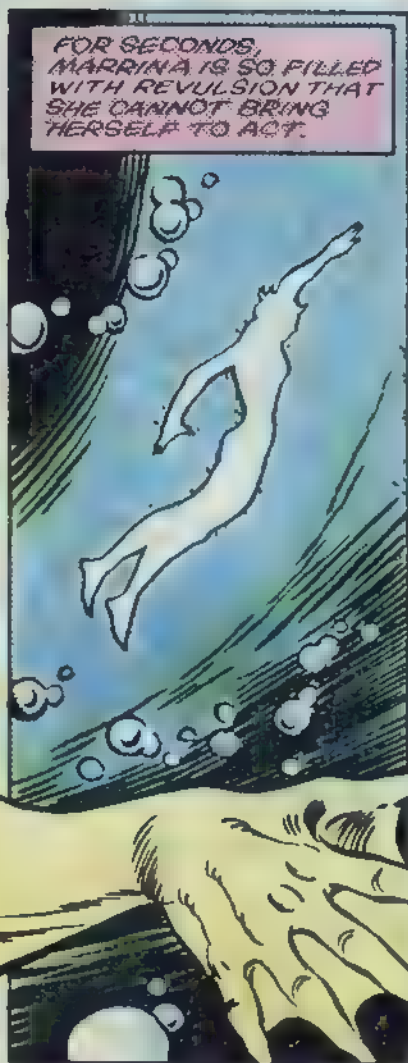
YET INTO THE FLOOD
MARRINA DIVES, SEEKING
TO STEM THE PUTRID
TIDE.



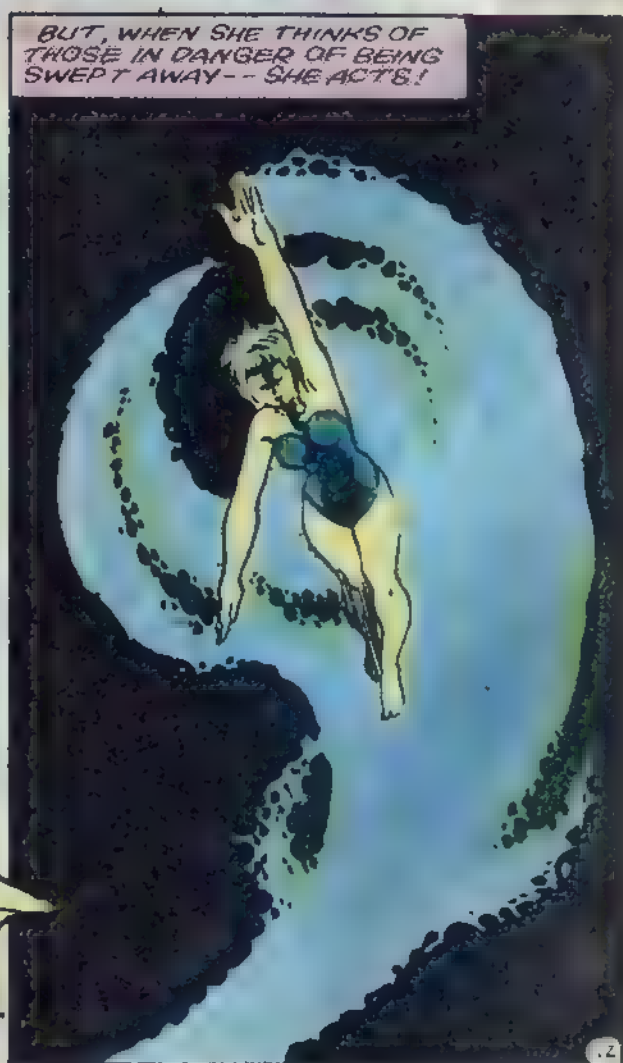
BEFORE ITS COAL-
CHOKED DARKNESS
DEPRIVES HER OF HER
LIFE.

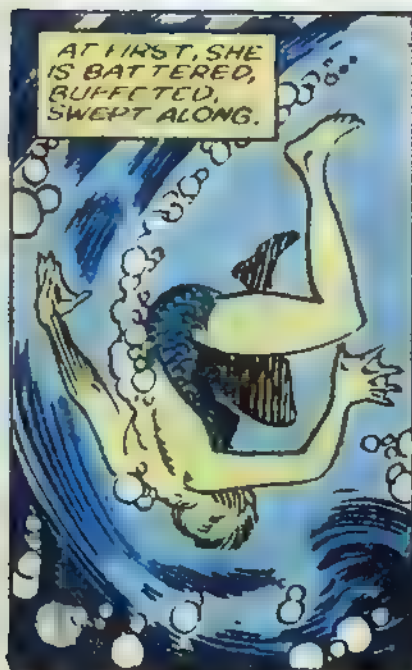


FOR SECONDS,
MARRINA IS SO FILLED
WITH REVULSION THAT
SHE CANNOT BRING
HERSELF TO ACT.



BUT, WHEN SHE THINKS OF
THOSE IN DANGER OF BEING
SWEEP AWAY-- SHE ACTS!

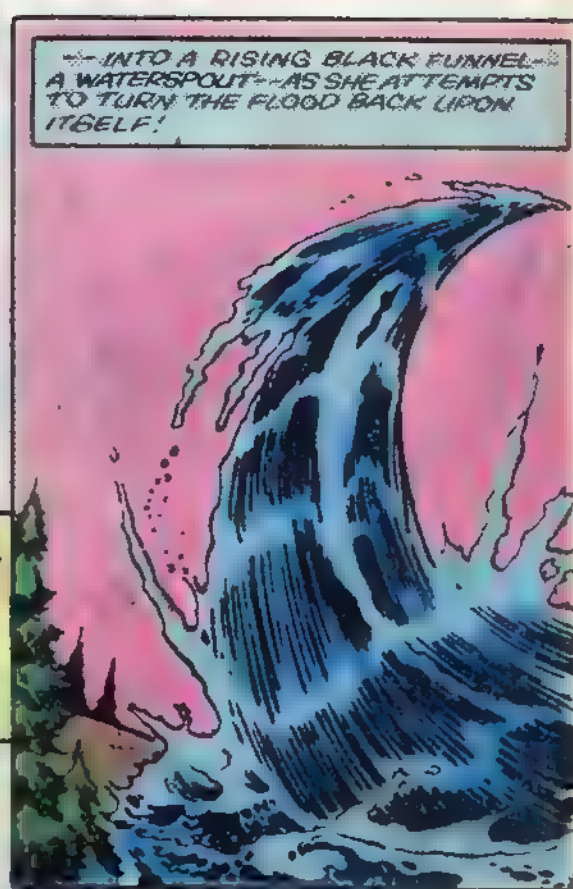




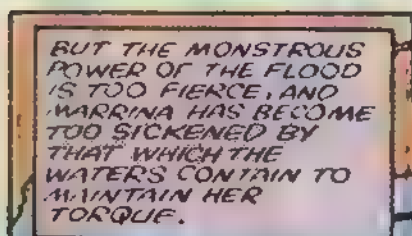
AT FIRST, SHE IS BATTERED, BUFFETED, SWEEPED ALONG.



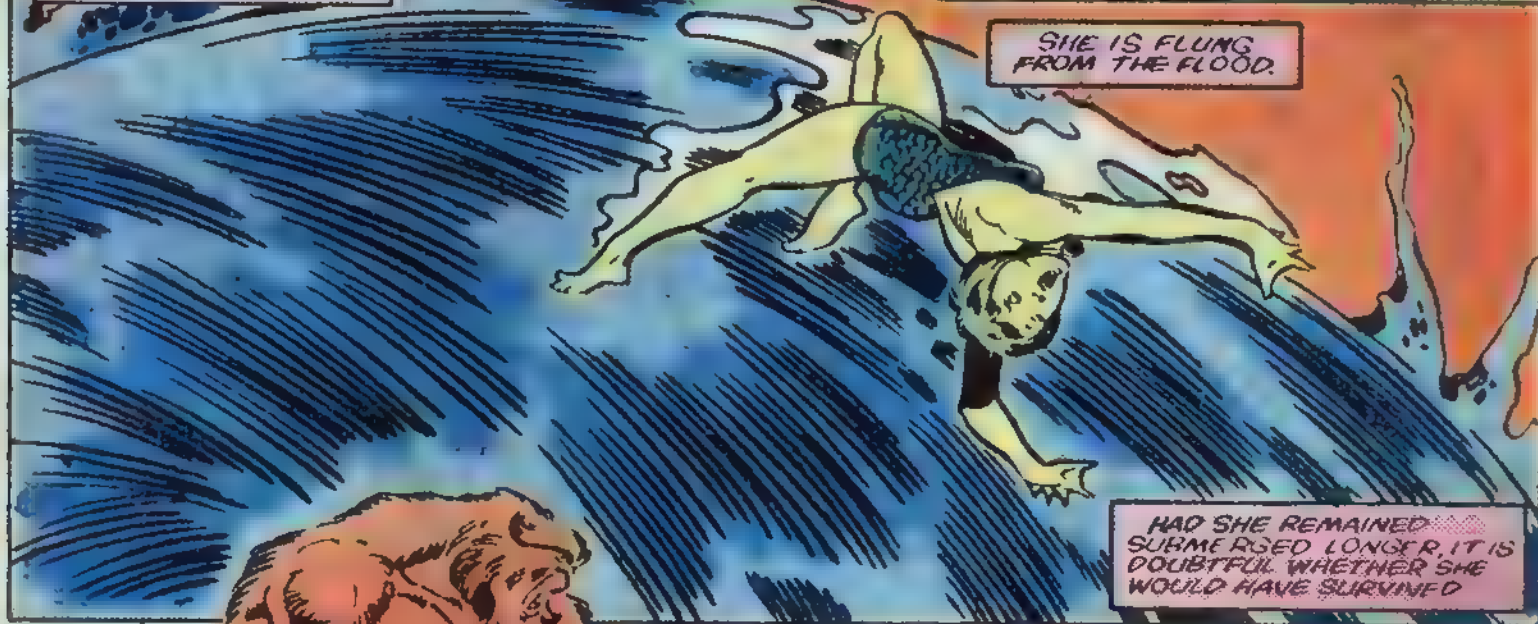
THEN MARRINA RECOVERS AND, TWISTING HER COURSE LIKE A CORKSCREW, WHIPS THE WATERS THROUGH WHICH SHE SWIMS--



-- INTO A RISING BLACK FUNNEL-- A WATERSPOUT-- AS SHE ATTEMPTS TO TURN THE FLOOD BACK UPON ITSELF!

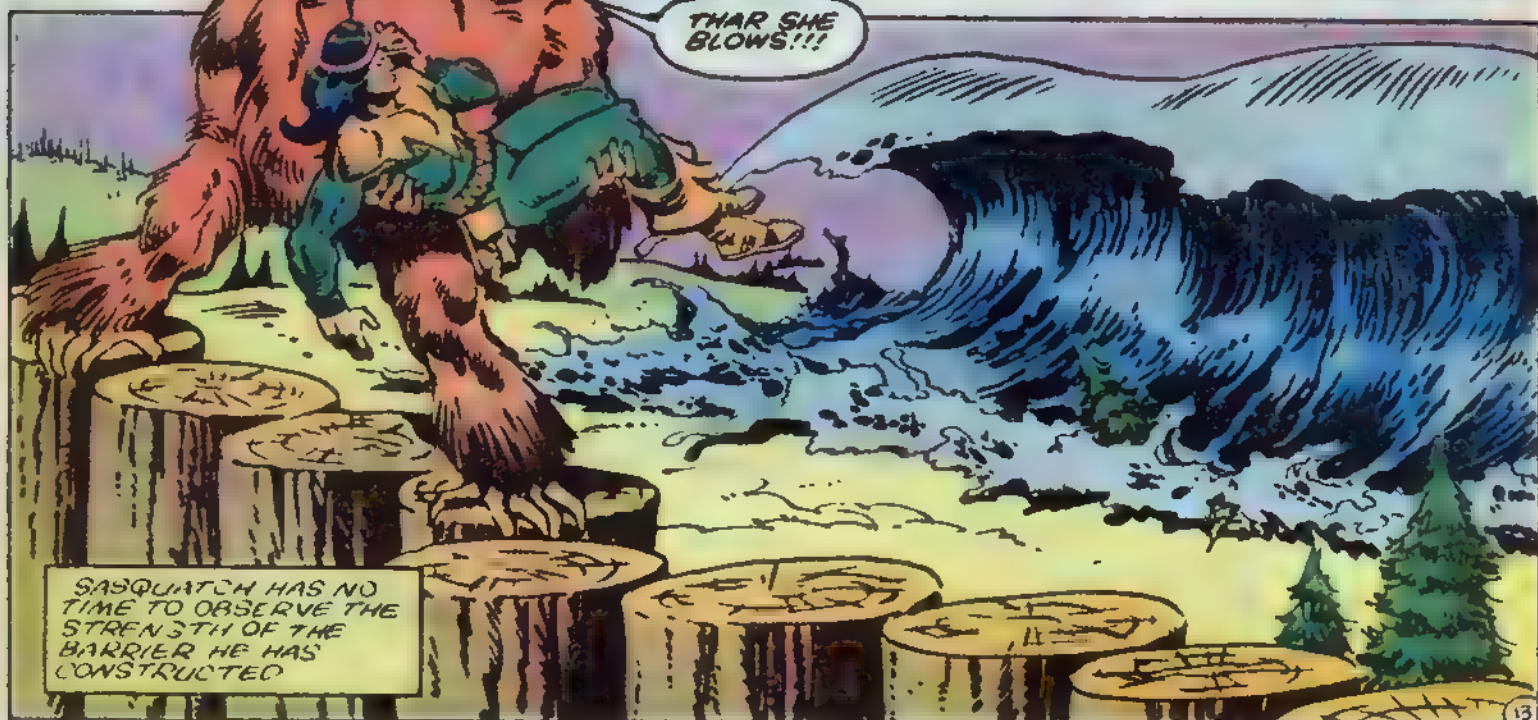


BUT THE MONSTROUS POWER OF THE FLOOD IS TOO FIERCE, AND MARRINA HAS BECOME TOO SICKENED BY THAT WHICH THE WATERS CONTAIN TO MAINTAIN HER TORQUE.



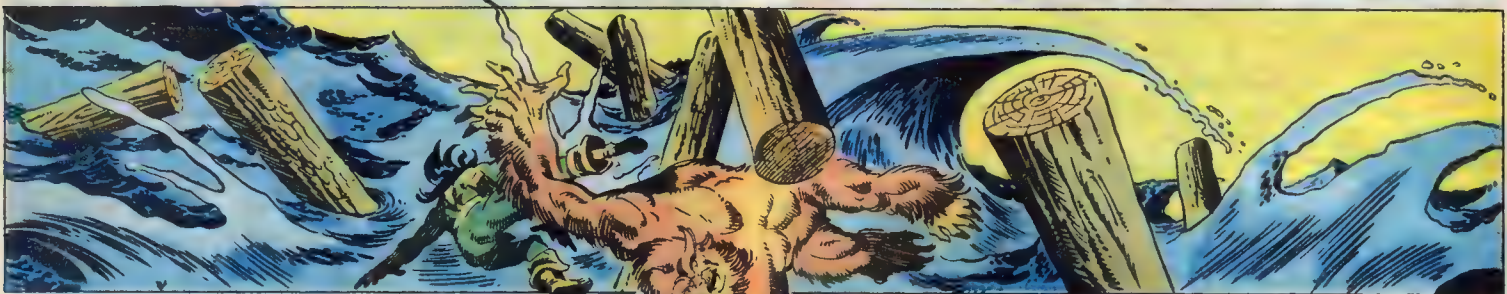
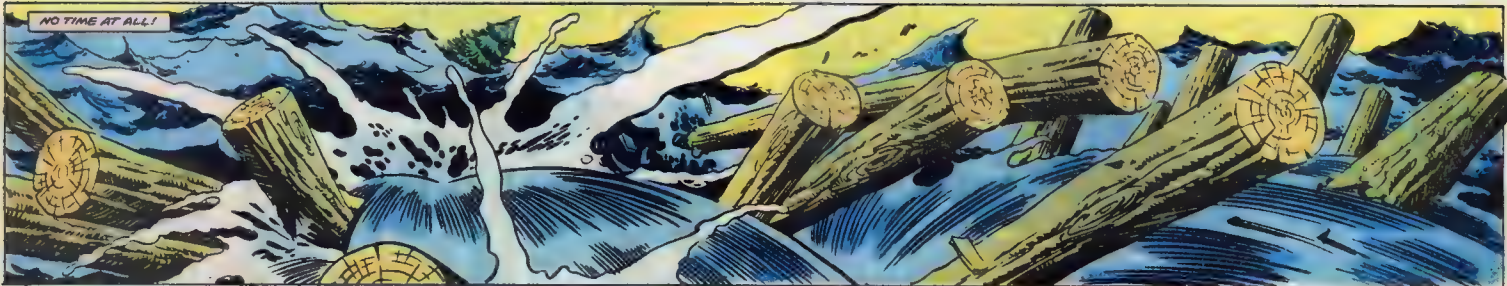
SHE IS FLUNG FROM THE FLOOD.

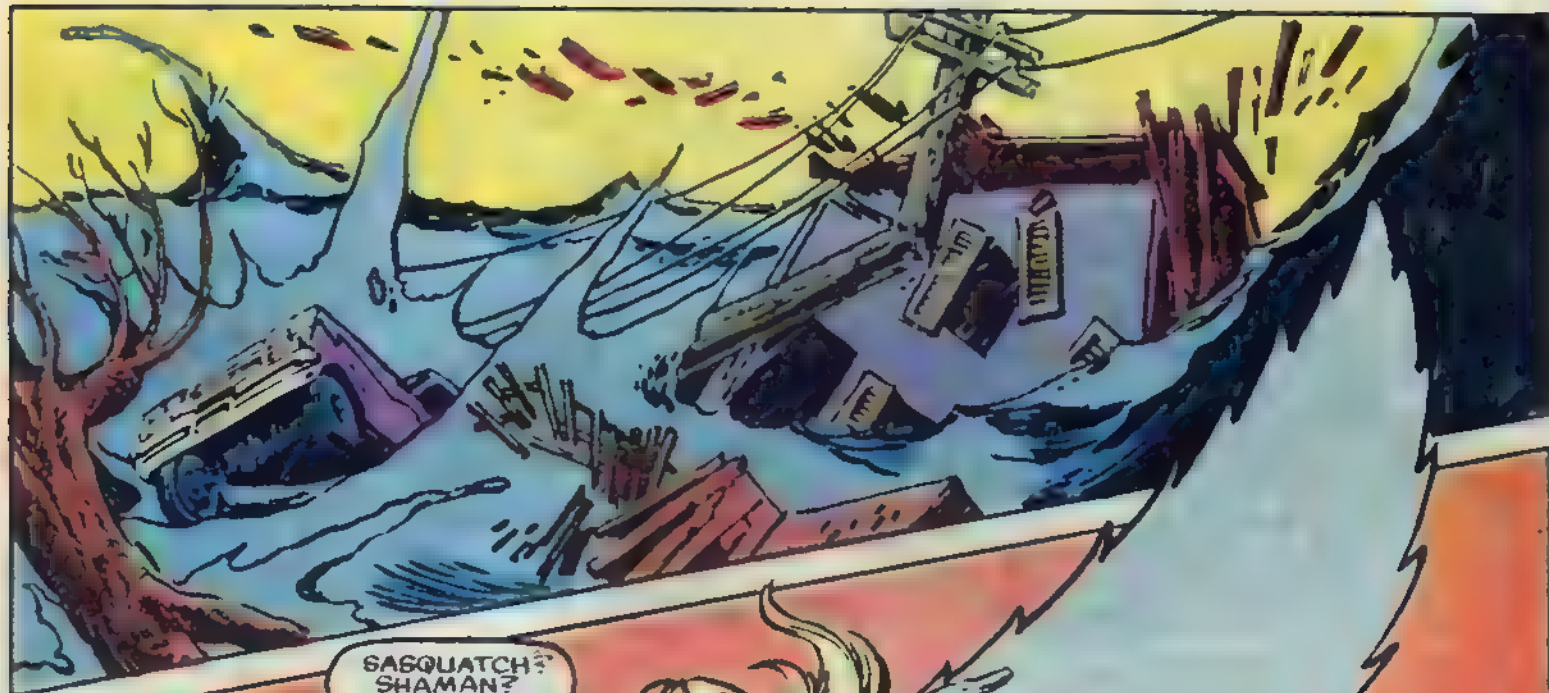
HAD SHE REMAINED SUBMERGED LONGER, IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER SHE WOULD HAVE SURVIVED



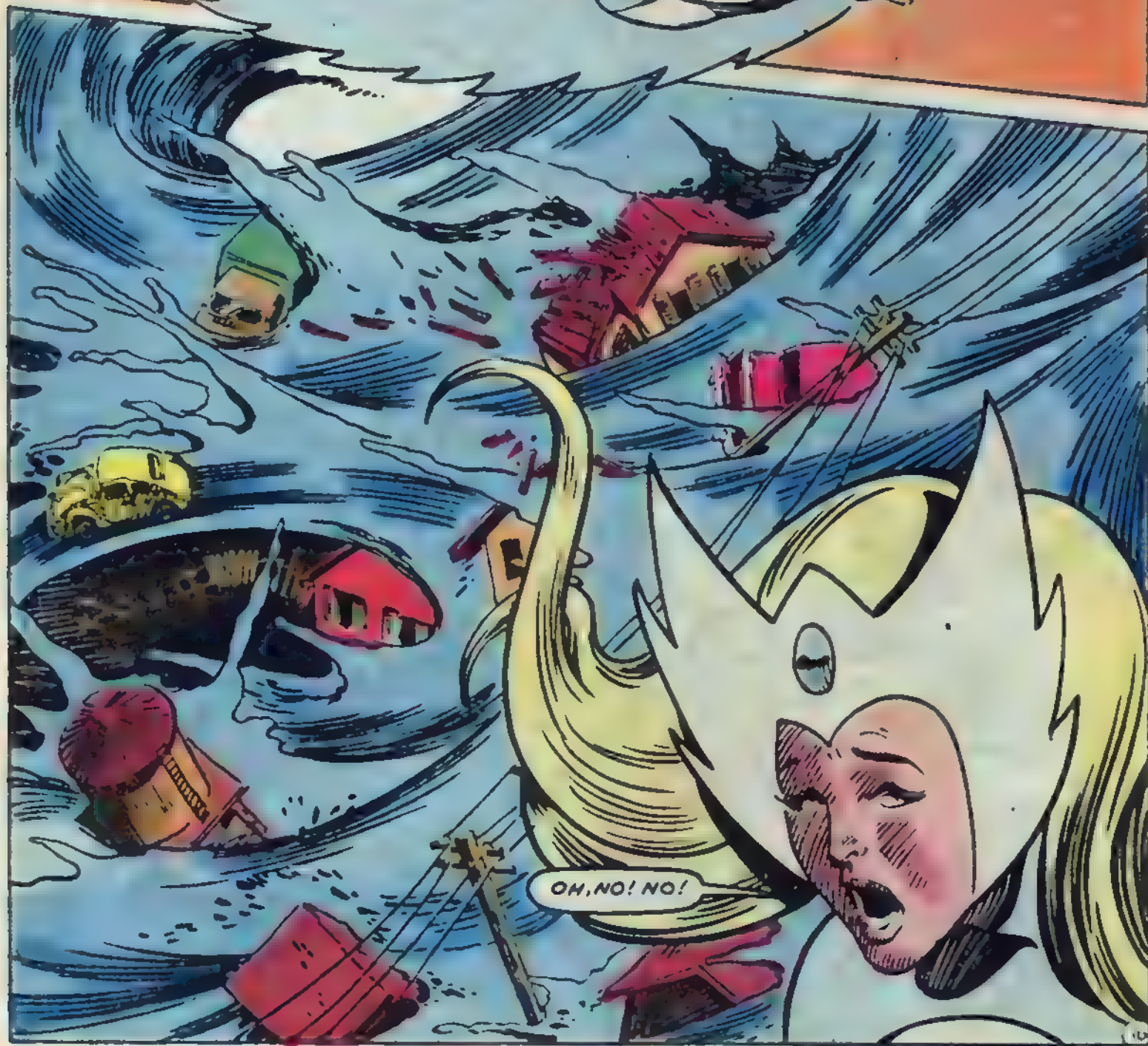
THAT SHE BLOWS!!!

SAGQUATCH HAS NO TIME TO OBSERVE THE STRENGTH OF THE BARRIER HE HAS CONSTRUCTED



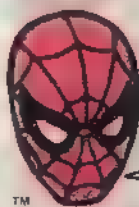


SASQUATCH?
SHAMAN?
MARRINA?



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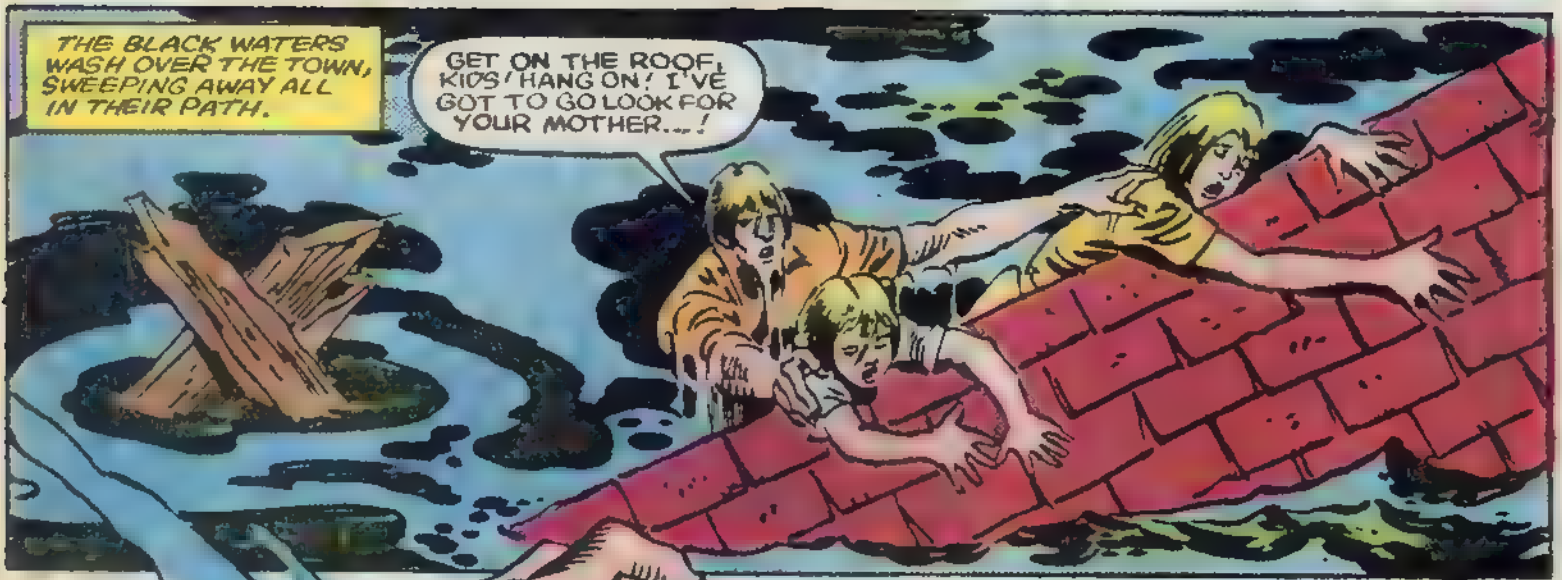
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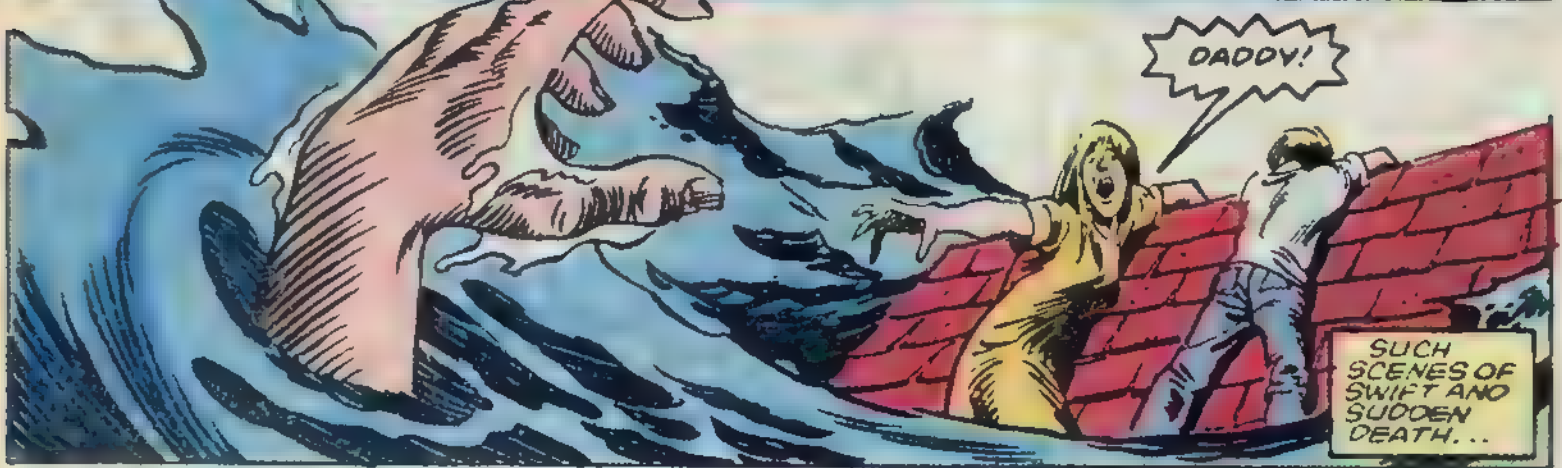
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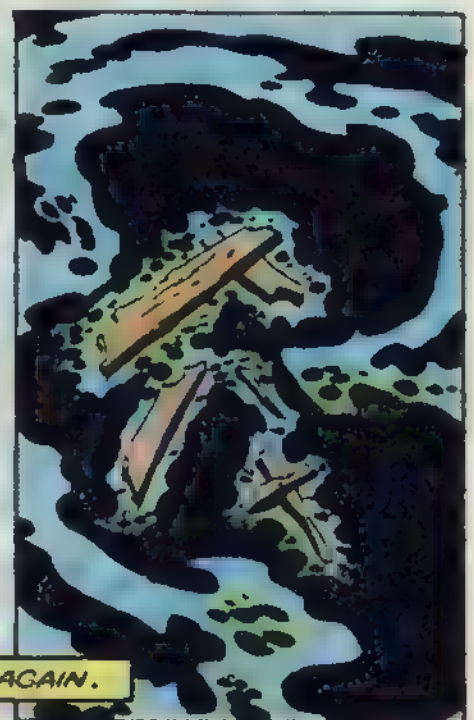
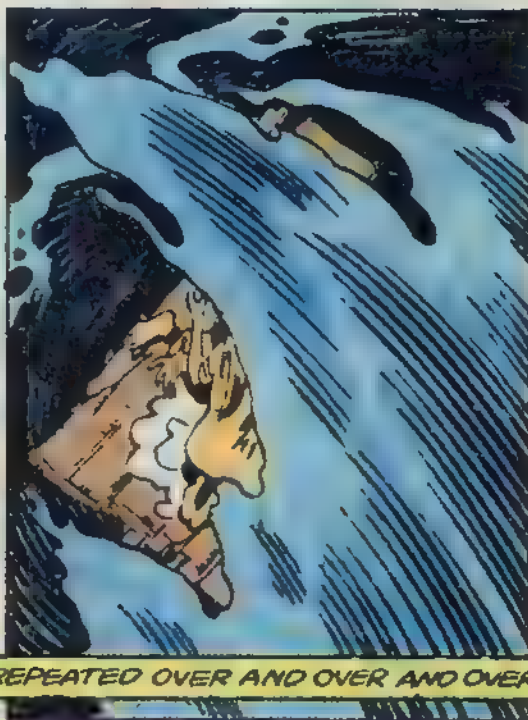
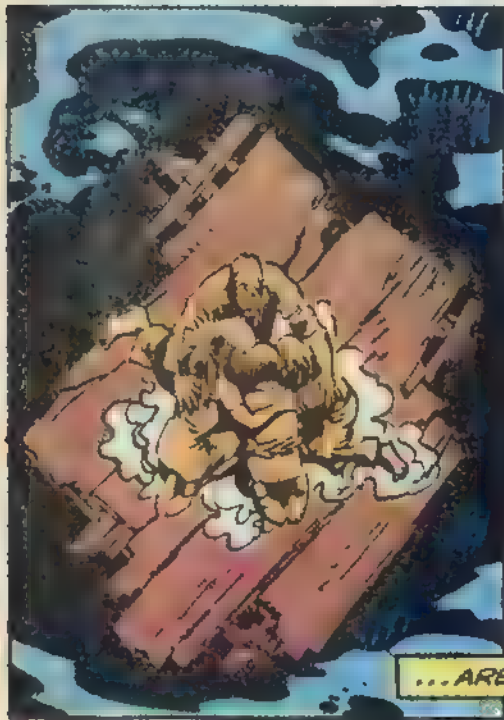
THE BLACK WATERS
WASH OVER THE TOWN,
SWEEPING AWAY ALL
IN THEIR PATH.

GET ON THE ROOF,
KIDS! HANG ON! I'VE
GOT TO GO LOOK FOR
YOUR MOTHER...!

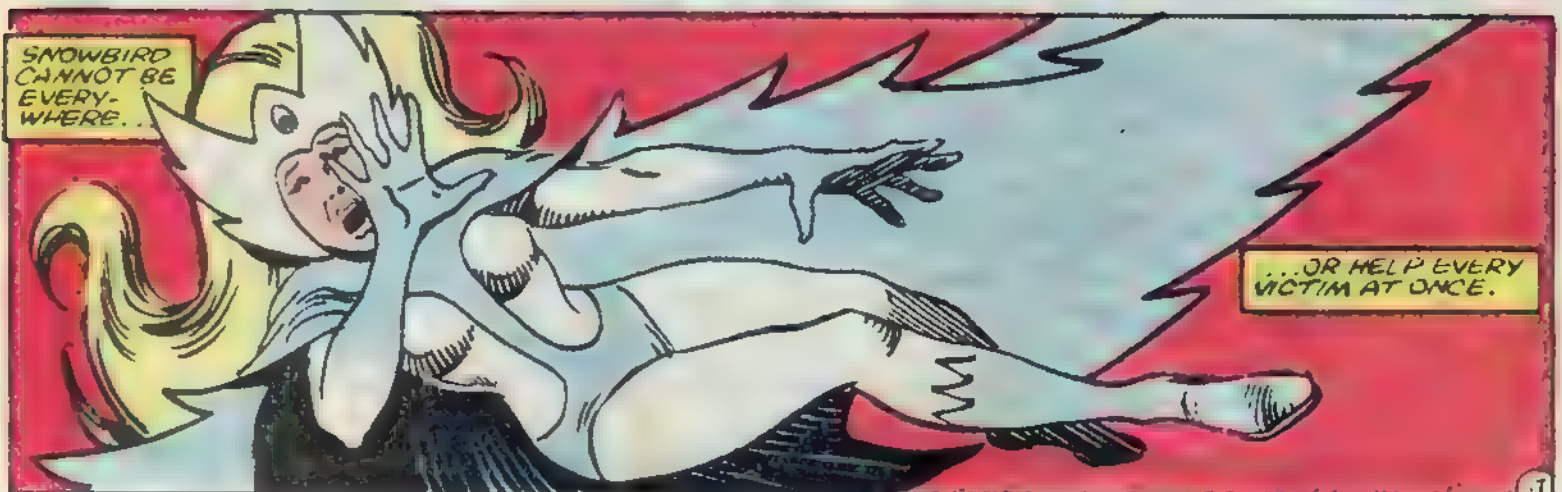


DADDY!

SUCH
SCENES OF
SWIFT AND
SUDDEN
DEATH...



... ARE REPEATED OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

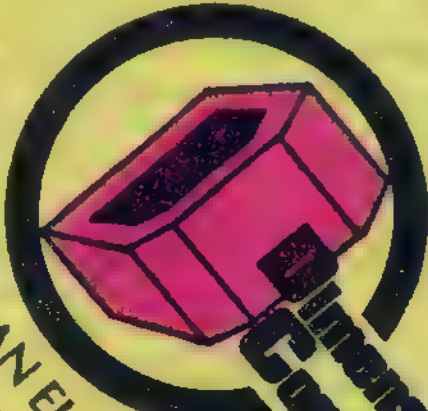


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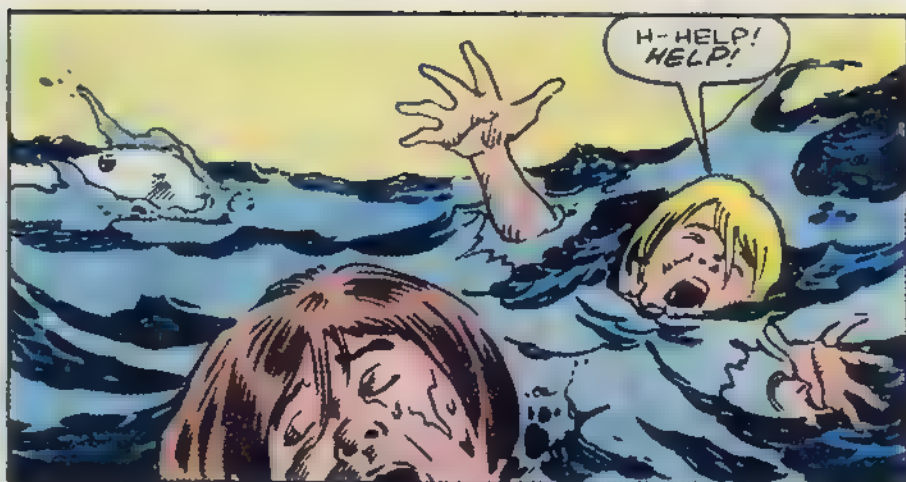
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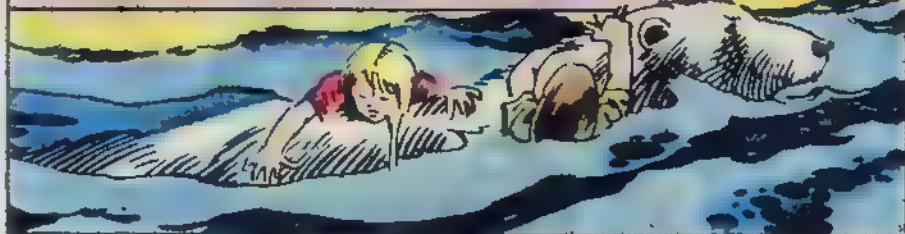
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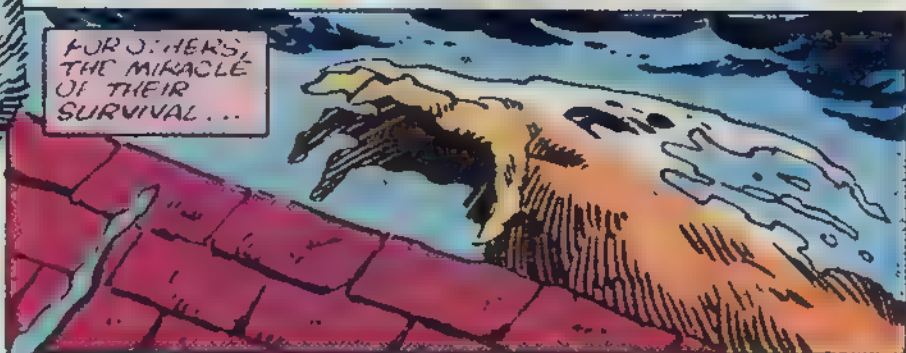


H-HELP!
HELP!

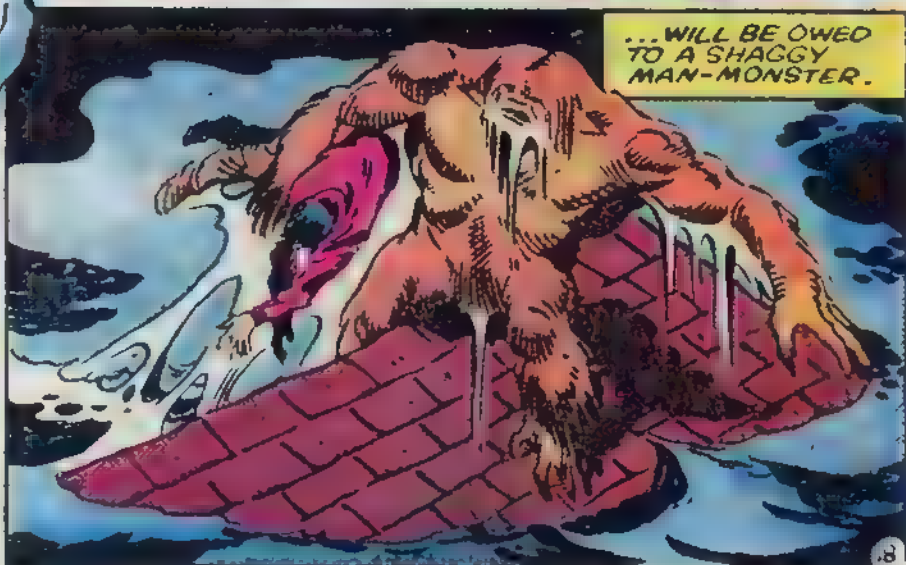
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TO QUESTION THEIR RESCUE--



-- BY AN
AWESOME
ARCTIC POLAR
BEAR.



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THE MIRACLE
OF THEIR
SURVIVAL...



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TO A SHAGGY
MAN-MONSTER.

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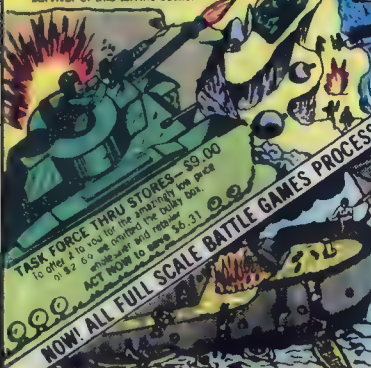
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THE SURVIVORS ASSEMBLE ON THE SLOPES
OVERLOOKING THE BLACK RIVER THAT FLOWS
THROUGH A VALLEY THAT ONCE SHELTERED
A TOWN.

WHAT OF THE
DEAD, ROM?

THEY
ARE THE
LUCKY
ONES,
HUMAN.

'TIS THE LIVING
I PITY.

THE LIVING
HAVE SUFFERED
SHOCKS BOTH PSYCHIC
AND PHYSICAL, TO
WHICH, THEY, TOO, MAY
STILL SUCCEMB!

I PRAY THERE
BE MEDICINES IN
MY POUCH TO
SAVE HER!

... THEY PROVE ABLE
ENOUGH TO HEAL.

IS...

ONE OF THOSE
IS MARRINA--
SICKENED BY THE
WRAITH-TAINTED
WATERS, THEN
DASHED SENSE-
LESS BY THE
FLOOD!

THOUGH SHAMAN'S
SPELLS WERE INSUFFICIENT
TO HALT THE DRIVING
FLOOD...

... IS IT
OVER? DID
WE SAVE
THE TOWN?

Bullpen Bulletins

A TRAGIC MISTAKE ...!

Well, maybe not really *tragic*, but, anyway — a few months ago I was talking about being down in Florida visiting *Adventure International*, where they make the best darn computer games in the whole wide world, and I mentioned that a programmer named John Anderson made some favorable comments about our now-legendary Assistant Editors Month.

Oops.

It seems that the fellow I spoke to was in reality, *Mr. Mark S. Murley*, who's a Documentation Manager for A.I. as well as a Marvel Comics fan for nearly twenty years! John is a very nice guy, don't get me wrong — but it was Mark with whom I spoke about Assistant Editors Month! Sorry guys! From now on, I promise to keep the names straight.

WHICH BRINGS UP QUESTPROBE ...

Have you seen the first issue of our *Questprobe* Limited Series? We're doing this series in conjunction with *Adventure International*, which, if you don't know, is a division of Scott Adams, Inc. They're doing corresponding computer games to go with our comics — which by the way, are hot stuff all by themselves.

Whether you get along with computers or not, I think you'll like this series — especially since issue #1 marks the return of *John Romita* the elder to mainstream Marvel comics. He's finishing and inking the pencil layouts of Mark Gruenwald. The story featuring the Hulk is by Bill Mantlo, and if this thing isn't a collectors' item, I've never seen one.



THREE TITLES KILLED!

Yes, it's true. Issue #34 of *Ka-Zar*, issue #38 of *Moon Knight* and issue #59 of *The Micronauts* will be the last of those series. Why? Because those three titles were Marvel's three Direct Market-only books, sold exclusively at comics specialty shops. They were made all-direct as an experiment to find out whether or not the Direct Market was strong enough, to support titles all by itself. Turned out it is — all three titles sold very well — which is why we now publish

HYPE BOX

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HIGH ADVENTURE #1 — Four stones of swashbuckling adventure in the most exotic places in the world — and crafted with tender, loving care by the best writers and artists in the business! This book has been nearly a year in the making, and we think it's been well worth the wait! Stories by STEVE ENGLEHART, ANN NOCENTI, MIKE CARLIN and LOUISE SIMONSON. Art by JOHN SEVERIN, TONY SALMONS, GERRY TALAOC and STEVE LEIALOHA.

POWER PACK #1 — They're a new team of super-heroes! They have all-new super powers! They have a mission to save the world! And ... they're all under age 12? Never let it be said we do things the easy way around here! They're the *Power Pack* — and they debut this month in a special, double-size issue, courtesy of LOUISE SIMONSON and BOB WIACEK (both of *X-Men* fame), and talented newcomer JUNE BRIGMAN!

a whole bunch of stuff like *EPIC Comics*, deluxe reprint specials, and *Graphic Novels* exclusively for that market. However, the experiment is over — we've found out what we want to know — so we're cancelling *Ka-Zar*, *Moon Knight* and *The Micronauts*. So much for them. They served their purpose. They blazed the trail for the likes of *Dreadstar*, *Coyote* and *Void Indigo*. Yep, no need for them anymore ... not in their special experimental, Direct-Market only format anyway, which is why ...

TA-DAAA!

The *Micronauts*, *Moon Knight* and *Ka-Zar* are being reborn! Restaged! *Relaunched* into the world, each in its own full-fledged all-new comics series, sold at newsstands and comics specialty shops in the time-tested traditional Marvel Comics format, priced at 60¢! It's a new beginning for some truly outstanding and deserving characters. When? **MICRONAUTS: THE NEW VOYAGES #1** goes on sale June 12th, and **THE FIST OF KHONSHU #1** also debuts June 12th. *Ka-Zar* will come along later. Watch for him.

Those of you who didn't or couldn't follow these guys when they were all-direct, don't worry. When I say it's a new beginning for them, I mean it. You'll be able to pick right up on these guys. Of course, if you want to check out what has gone before, your local comics specialty dealer (many of whom advertise in our comics) will cheerfully help you track down back issues!

So there!

THAT'S ALL ...

Except to warn you that next month, I'll be announcing a nifty freebie, yes, as in giveaway, courtesy of us guys. What is it? How many? How big?

Stay tuned.

And stay well.

Jim Shooter

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

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- ☐ THE THING #14
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MAN, IN HIS
MADNESS
POLLUTED
A LAKE...

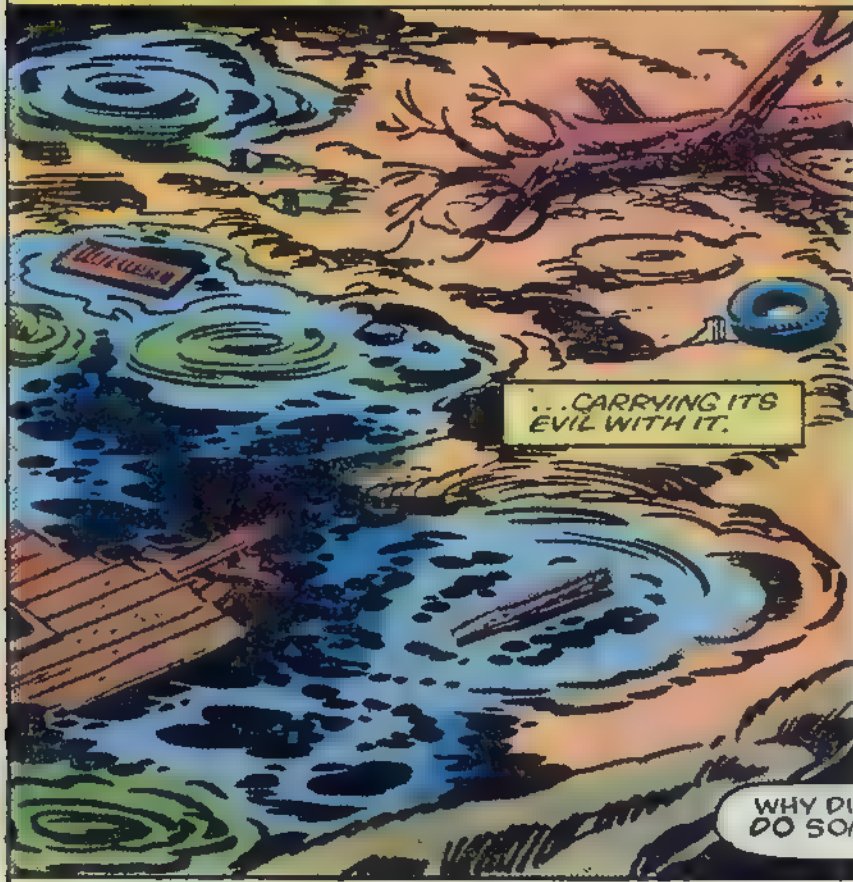


... THE DIRE
WRAITHS
IN THEIR
MALEVOLENCE,
UNLEASHED
THE FLOOD.

THE BRACKISH
BLACK WATERS
CARRIED THE
WRAITH-TAINT
WITH THEM...

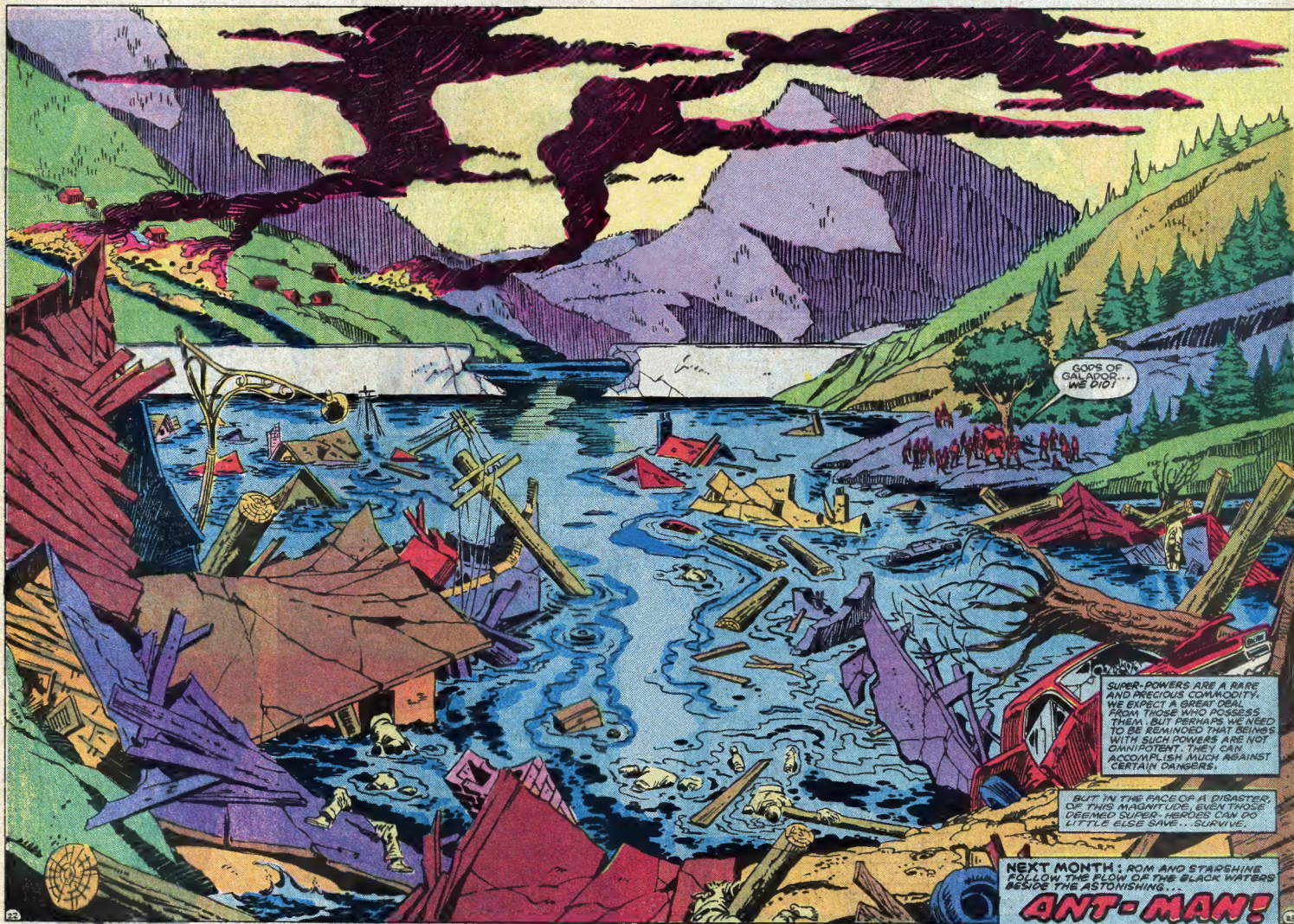


... AND EVEN NOW THAT TAIN'T SEEPS INTO THE SOIL
AND WASHES INTO EVERY TRIBUTARY DOWNSTREAM...



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DO SOMETHING?





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WE DID!

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FROM THOSE WHO POSSESS
THEM, BUT PERHAPS WE NEED
TO BE REMINDED THAT BEING
WITH SUCH POWERS ARE NOT
OMNIPOTENT. THEY CAN
ACCOMPLISH MUCH AGAINST
CERTAIN DANGERS.

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OF THIS MAGNITUDE, EVEN THOSE
DEEMED SUPER-HEROES CAN DO
LITTLE ELSE SAVE... SURVIVE.

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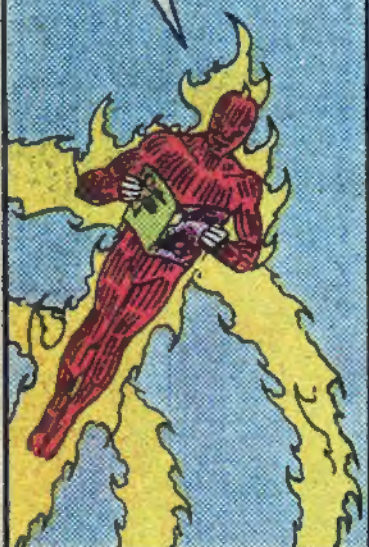
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